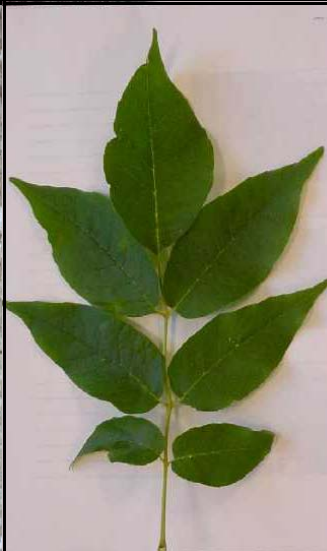




Niagara Nature News
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 Soil & Water Conservation District
 FALL 2011 - E-NEWS

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**EMERALD ASH BORER IS QUICKLY APPROACHING
 NIAGARA COUNTY**

Although it has not been identified in Niagara County yet, it could be at our "doorstep" very soon. Earlier this year the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in Erie County, detected in the City of Buffalo's South Park. Unfortunately, it has also been discovered in the Lancaster, Cheektowaga and Depew area.

"The discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer in Erie County is extremely unfortunate but not surprising," DEC Commissioner Joe Martens said. "Despite multi-state efforts to curtail its expansion, EAB has spread across the northeastern United States over the last decade. DEC is coordinating with federal and local government partners across the state to prevent the further spread of this destructive insect, especially outside of the quarantine areas. Awareness and preparedness are our best defenses, both of which are emphasized in DEC's strategic Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) program."

SLAM focuses on early detection and rapid response to the current EAB infestation. When exclusion efforts fail, the next best protection tool is intensive surveying and monitoring which enables infestations to be detected quickly, and early, while they are still relatively small. Early detections must then be delimited, and evaluated, to determine their extent, intensity and (where possible) age.

To protect New York State's trees, we need your help to look for and report signs of the EAB.

Step 1 - Learn to Identify Ash Trees

Ash trees have branches, leaves and buds which are directly across from one another rather than staggered spacing. Each leaf is compound, made up of 5-11 leaflets. Bark had a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges, although bark on smaller trees is often smoother.

Step 2 - Look for Signs of EAB Infestation

Ash tree branches dying from the top down (crown thinning), woodpecker damage on tree trunks, larvae present under the tree bark which form s-shaped galleries and, D shaped exit holes present on tree trunks are all signs of an EAB infestation. [More on page 2](#)

The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our programs aid in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for your continued assistance in fulfilling our goals.

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Inside this issue:	Page
New Phosphorus Law	2
EAB Continued	2
New Stream Gage	3
NRCS News	3



NYSDEC Unveils New Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law. Phosphate-Free detergents are now available in stores.

FYI...

The District is now selling reusable shopping totes. They are a generous size: 13”h x 12”w x 8”d and are made from 100% recycled material...and washable! Only \$1.85 plus tax.



EAB Larval Gallery

S-shaped feeding tunnels, often with larvae, are located just under the bark.

NYSDEC UNVEILS NEW DISHWASHER DETERGENT AND NUTRIENT RUNOFF LAW

The Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law (Chapter 205 of the laws of 2010), was signed into law by the Governor on July 15, 2010. This law will improve water quality in New York by reducing phosphorus runoff into the State's waterbodies. It will also reduce costs to local governments and private entities required to remove excess phosphorus from stormwater and wastewater, and will improve recreational and other uses of the state's waters.

Dishwasher Detergent Provisions

Beginning 8/14/2010:

- Sale of dishwasher detergent containing phosphorus for household use is prohibited.

Beginning 7/1/2013:

- Sale or distribution of dishwasher detergent containing phosphorus for use at commercial establishments is prohibited.

Fertilizer Provisions

Beginning 1/1/2012:

- Use of fertilizer containing phosphorus on non-agricultural lawns and turf is restricted to when a new lawn is being established or when soil tests indicate a need for phosphorus.
- Application of any fertilizer for non-farm use is prohibited between December 1st and April 1st.
- Application of any fertilizer within 20 feet of a water

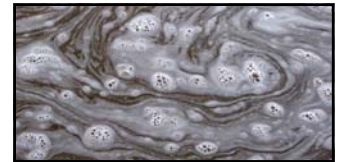
body or on paved surface is restricted.

- Retailers must display fertilizer that contains phosphorus separately from phosphorus-free fertilizer and must post signs notifying customers of the terms of the law.

This provision DOES NOT impact agricultural fertilizer or fertilizer for gardens

For more information about the Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law, please visit:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html



EMERALD ASH BORER - CONTINUED

Step 3 - Take Action

- Look for possibly infested ash trees at home and in the woods.
- Focus on high-risk locations near large log piles or campgrounds.
- Don't move firewood. The EAB is commonly transported to new areas on firewood. Follow DEC's firewood regulation and use local firewood.
- Spread the word; talk to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about EAB.

The EAB has metallic green wing covers and a coppery red or purple abdomen; it is small enough to fit

easily on a penny. (see photo on front page)

Since its discovery in southeastern Michigan in 2002, the EAB is responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of ash trees in the United States. The beetle has been detected in 14 states and two neighboring Canadian provinces. This insect primarily spreads when firewood and wood products are moved from one place to another. Many of New York State's forests and parklands are high-risk areas due to firewood movement. New York has more than 900 million ash trees, representing about seven percent of all trees in

the state; all are at risk should EAB become established across the state.

For more info on EAB, go to:

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html



The D-shaped exit hole of an Emerald Ash Borer



NEW STREAM GAGE ON EIGHTEENMILE CREEK

In a move that highlights the success of inter-agency partnerships, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District (NCSWCD) and Town of Newfane have joined together in partnership to install a new stream gage on Eighteenmile Creek in Niagara County, NY.

The new gage is called USGS 04219768 Eighteenmile Creek at Burt, NY and is located just downstream of the Burt Dam in Fisherman's Park. The equipment in the gage continuously (15 min.) records stage (water elevation) and transmits this data in near-real time (hourly) to the internet via satellite transmission. Hourly water-level data for this gage can be accessed by anyone by visiting the following website, <http://waterdata.usgs.gov>.

Eighteenmile Creek has been designated as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) by the International Joint Commission (IJC). The entire stretch of Eighteenmile Creek from Lockport, NY to the mouth of the river is planned for inclusion on the NPL in the near future (Federal Register Notice proposing the inclusion on the NPL planned for September 7, 2011). EPA monitoring from 2002 to the present has shown that this tributary has PCB concentrations which are 2 to 3 orders of magnitude higher than all the other monitored tributaries. The location of the new gage will enable a better evaluation of toxic pollutant loadings to Lake Ontario for EPA's Tributary Monitoring

program, current and future modeling projects, and for NPL before, during and after the remediation activities are completed.

USGS hydrographers will manually measure streamflow (cubic feet per second) about seven times a year and more frequently during floods and droughts. Additionally, USGS personnel will collect water quality samples and measure in situ parameters (pH, temperature, conductivity, specific conductivity) at this site and five other NYS tributaries through 2012 as part of their support of the Lake Ontario LaMP and associated activities. The results of the field measurements and laboratory analyses will complement and augment Region 2's current Lake Ontario US Tributary monitoring program.

This project is funded through EPA Region 2 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds.



Gage station located just below the Burt Dam

NRCS CONSERVATION CORNER

Soil Conservationist Charlie Kesterson has been assigned to the Niagara County Field Office. After 33 years of service Greg Tessmann, District Conservationist retired at the end of June this year. Charlie is a native of Niagara County and has spent past years serving as a Soil Conservationist for Erie and Orleans Counties. Charlie will be managing all Farm Bill Programs, Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance and providing technical assistance to land owners.

Most NRCS Conservation Programs are continuous sign-up. Please feel free to call the NRCS Field Office (716-434-4949, ext. 110) to inquire about any natural resource concerns or wildlife enhancements you may want to address on your land. The Field Office will be announcing different programs as they become available through the use of the newspaper, FSA News and Niagara County SWCD News. The application process moves along more smoothly if you can provide NRCS with an Agricultural Environmental Management Plan. The AEM Plan is provided free of charge by the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District. The plan is designed to point out key environmental concerns and provides alternative ways of addressing those concerns. Also, please update your property information with the Farm Service Agency. This informa-

tion is needed in order for NRCS to enter your application into the computer system.

The Food Security Act of 1985 was put into law by Congress to help conserve our nation's soil and water resources. If you are planning on clearing new land, creating a new drainage system, improving or modifying an existing drainage system, land leveling, dredging, filling, or working land that has not been evaluated by NRCS, please stop into the USDA Service Center FSA Office to complete form AD-1026 (Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification). Starting work without a certified determination form from NRCS may result in non-compliance and jeopardize program benefits. Requests should be submitted at least 60 days prior to project start date.

Final note, Web Soil Survey is an NRCS internet web site created to provide land owners with a wealth of information when planning and making decisions pertaining to land. The website address is <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Web Soil Survey is the most current version of the Niagara County Soil Survey and has replaced all the old hard copies. Click on the site to see if you can find your property and soil type.

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